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REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY, 1864.

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1864.

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REPORT

OF THE

SELF-BETTERMENT OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

ELIZABETH TOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1884

MANUFACTURED BY H. H. DAVENPORT & CO. NEW BOSTON, N. H.
1884

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen of the Town of New Boston submit the following statement of receipts and disbursements for the year ending February 20, 1864:

RECEIPTS.

Amount of taxes assessed,	\$6071 96
Literary Fund,	97 20
Ministerial Fund,	53 28
School Fund,	15 72
Railroad money,	
County Paupers,	58 50
State aid,	1177 54
Use of Town House,	12 80
Dog tax,	76 00
	<hr/>
Of Marden for Town House,	\$7563 00
	8 00
	<hr/>
	\$7571 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid State tax,	1339 20
County tax,	773 24
	<hr/>
	\$2112 44
School house tax, No. 6,	\$175 00

PAID FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Dist. No. 1,	27 74	Dist. No. 11,	61 04
2,	55 08	12,	31 19
3,	41 92	13,	71 16
4,	82 59	14,	38 47
5,	56 34	15,	46 17
6,	52 91	16,	97 77
7,	58 12	17,	22 22
8,	271 58		
9,	70 36		
10,	28 22		
			<hr/>
			\$1112 88

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Presbyterian,	27 56
Baptist,	17 59
Universalist,	8 14
	<hr/>
	\$53 29

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

G. G. Fox, services as Clerk and Collector,	85 25
W. R. Cochran, Superintending School Com.	85 00
James Danforth, Treasurer,	30 00

Robert B. Cochran, Selectman,	107 50
Daniel Campbell, do	86 00
Benjamin Colby, do	71 48
R. B. Cochran, Overseer of Poor,	7 50
Daniel Campbell, do	5 75
Benjamin Colby, do	3 87
George M. Shedd, Constable,	2 00
Auditors,	4 50
	<hr/> \$488 85

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

John B. Brown, repairing highway,	16 37
Perry Richards, repairing bridge,	49 34
Henry Hutchinson, labor on river road,	9 44
John B. Brown, repairing road,	3 00
D. A. Tewksbury, repairing bridge near J. H. Gregg's,	14 05
Ivers Smith, labor on highway,	75
Daniel Campbell, plank and repairing bridges,	6 32
B. Colby, plank and labor on bridges and road,	13 20
S. M. Christie, stringers and plank on bog road,	4 50
John B. Warren, stringers for bridge,	3 00
Luke S. Lynch, labor on highway,	3 46
D. & D. Gregg, plank and labor for Hutchinson and How bridges, &c.,	46 38
E. D. Brown, for stone,	54
Moses Woods, labor on highway,	2 00
B. Fletcher, labor on river road,	1 00
Daniel Campbell, labor at bridge,	75
	<hr/> \$174 85
	75

\$174 10

BILLS OF 1862.

John B. Brown, breaking roads,	3 20
Ezra Morgan, snow bill,	2 10
R. B. Cochran, postage, &c.,	3 63
B. Colby, 1 day as Selectman,	1 25
Moses Woods, labor on highway,	2 00
B. Fletcher, labor on river road,	1 00
J. M. Campbell, printing town accounts,	22 00
George Adams, cutting ice on road,	75
Paid Wm. Dodge, boarding Selectmen to March, '63,	
R. B. Cochran,	7 20
S. F. Burnham,	11 85
B. Colby,	8 85

Solomon Dodge, planking bridge,	20 20
John F. Marden, labor on bridge,	1 00
Ephraim Fox, labor in graveyard,	1 00
E. D. Brown, stone for bridge,	54
Sidney Hills, tolling bell,	3 00
Ezra Morgan breaking roads,	2 10
	<hr/>
	\$91 67
William Beard,	5 76
	<hr/>
Total,	\$97 43

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

R. B. Cochran, for books, board, &c.	12 36
Allen R. Hopkins, watering trough,	2 00
R. E. McLane, wood and stationery,	9 43
David Gregg, for engine company,	30 00
R. E. McLane, for oil,	64
George W. McLane, repairing Town House and painting guide boards,	2 98
William Dodge, boarding Selectmen, April, 1863,	10 03
Sidney Hill, ringing and tolling bell,	12 00
Daniel Campbell, damage on wagon,	5 00
Stamps for teachers' certificates,	1 60
Books for poor children,	1 40
E. Fox, labor in graveyard,	1 00
Whipple & Atwood, incidentals,	51
Daniel Campbell, cash paid Pattee,	1 00
John Gilmore, services as Moderator,	2 00
Michael White, taking care of Town House,	15 00
Robert B. Cochran, expenses filling quota. postage, &c.	29 30
Daniel Campbell, do do	16 88
Benjamin Colby, do do	1 40
	<hr/>
	160 53
	<hr/>
	6 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$154 53

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

B. S. Woodbury, tax on land and trees, 1862,	Mary T. Colburn, 1862,	1 47
J. B. White, over tax,	88 John Whittle, poll tax, '62,	1 41
	1 00 Town Farm 1863,	16 49
	1860.	
John H. Proctor,	1 56 Eunice Noyes,	3 47
James McColly,	3 02	
Sarah A. Smith,	78	
		<hr/>
		\$8 83

1861.	
James McColly,	2 91
Henry Wood,	3 00
Eunice Noyes,	3 43
John Dickey,	2 74
George How,	1 72
John Follansbee,	1 58
1862.	
Eunice Noyes,	1 18
Peter Woods,	1 60
George S. Neville,	1 41
1863.	
Frederick Shedd,	2 10
Dustin H. Wheeler,	2 10
Total,	

James Follansbee, 1 58
 Sarah A. Smith, 83
 Daniel G. Bowen, 2 78
 Emerson Johonnett, jr., 1 58
 ————
 22 15
 4 19
 M. D. H. Wheeler, 2 10
 \$6 30
 \$62 72

PAID NOTES AGAINST TOWN—INTEREST ON NOTES.

Paid Jonathan Pressy, note and interest,	132 81
Mary Lull, interest,	10 00
Mrs. R. Dodge, do	20 00
Jacob Towns, note and interest,	80 00
Carlos Daggell, interest,	9 18
D. Andrews, do	39 36
I. F. Cochran do	10 25
Aurinda Lull, balance of note and interest,	275 68
Mrs. Augusta Lawrence, note and interest,	312 96
Warren R. Kidder, do do	31 22
John Lamson, note and interest, to G. F. Lamson,	159 00
Miss Aurinda Lull, on note,	150 00
\$1,280 07	
49 61	

Total, \$1,230 46

PAID FOR PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

John Hills, for Dianthe Livingston from Jan. 5 '63,	
to Jan. 5 '64,	26 00
Mrs. Mary T. Colburn, for John Livingston,	20 00
Town of Brookline, for Lucy B. Dodge,	60 17
Mrs. Mary T. Colburn, for making clothes and support	
of John Livingston,	12 50
Dr. Daanforth's bill for medical attendance,	25 00
\$143 67	
State aid,	\$1678 68

RECAPITULATION.

Receipts,	7571 00
Disbursements,—State tax,	1339 20
County tax,	773 24
School house tax, No 6,	175 00
For the support of schools,	1112 88
Religious societies,	53 29
Town officers,	488 85
Roads and Bridges,	174 10
Sundry bills of 1862,	97 43
Incidental charges,	154 53
Abatement of taxes,	62 72
Notes and Interest,	1230 46
County paupers,	58 50
Paupers off the Farm,	143 67
	<hr/>
State aid,	\$5863 87
	1678 68
	<hr/>
	\$7542 55
Non-resident highway receipts 1862,	64 10
	<hr/>
	7606 65
	<hr/>
	7571 00
	<hr/>
Balance against the Town,	35 65
Paid by order on the Treasurer, to drafted men,	2003 00
	<hr/>
	2038 65
Balance against the Town 1862,	375 16
	<hr/>
	\$2413 81
State aid due the Town,	1224 68
	<hr/>
	1189 13
Amount of notes against the Town,	28,647 00
Interest on said notes,	1448 00
	<hr/>
	\$31,284 13
Deduct government bounty,	4500 00
Cash in the hands of the Selectmen,	883 77
Railroad money due,	65 00
	<hr/>
	\$5448 77
	<hr/>
Town debt,	\$25,835 36

There is in the hands of collector \$1961 73,	
Borrowed in April '63, of Joseph N. Leash,	200 00
Of A. Carson,	10 00
	<hr/> \$210 00
Paid note to Cudworth,	129 00
Treasurer,	55 00
Interest on Mary Lull's note,	10 00
S. Bell,	5 00
Stamps and schedule,	5 08
Balance to Treasurer,	5 92
	<hr/> \$210 00
The Selectmen have borrowed	10,067 20
The State bounty,	1500 00
Recruiting bounty,	220 00
	<hr/> \$11,787 20

And have paid it out as follows :

Bounty to 15 soldiers at \$535 each,	8025 00
To 3 drafted men,	900 00
J. M. Todd,	100 80
Paid into treasury,	1752 00
Balance on A. Lull's note,	125 68
State Treasurer for stamps,	75
	<hr/> \$10,903 43

Balance in the hands of Selectmen,	883 77
R. B. Cochran,	490 05
Daniel Campbell,	393 72
	<hr/> \$883 77

Respectfully submitted by
 ROBERT B. COCHRAN, }
 DANIEL CAMPBELL, } Selectmen
 BENJAMIN COLBY, } of
 New Boston.

New Boston, Feb. 22, 1864.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have examined the foregoing report of the Selectmen and find the bills correctly cast and properly vouched for.

NINIAN C. CROMBIE, }
 LUTHER COLBURN, } Auditors.
 STEPHEN F. BURNHAM, }

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor submit the following statement of Receipts and Expenditures of the poor on the Town Farm, and off the Farm. Also an inventory of the stock, provisions, &c., for the year ending Feb. 20, 1864.

RECEIPTS.

1 pair oxen,	155 00
1 pair 2 years old steers,	67 50
1 two years old colt,	50 00
As per book of Overseer on Farm,	138 58
For peg timber,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$413 08

CASH PAID OUT.

As per book of Overseer on Farm,	61 99
Pair of oxen,	120 00
1 one year old steer,	12 00
Whipple & Atwood, store bill,	26 33
S. M. Worthley, do	7 89
G. W. McLane,	7 49
John Cudworth, labor haying, &c.,	17 50
R. E. McLane, balance of goods for Farm,	30 85
Neil McLane, for sink,	1 00
A. A. Gerrish, for pasturing colts,	12 00
Use of stud horse, 1861,	3 00
Elzaphan Langdell,	7 00
John K. Christie, sawing,	9 50
Thomas Wason, cutting timber,	4 00
Estate of C. B. Dodge, for use of bull,	2 00
Michael White, for digging grave,	3 00
Benjamin Hopkins, sawing shingle,	10 20
James G. Jones, pasturing cattle,	10 49
J. M. & D. D. Smith, goods for Farm,	9 87
Henry Damon, blacksmith's bill for farm,	14 09
	<hr/>
	\$370 11

Amount of stock, provisions, &c., on the Farm for the year ending February 20th, 1864.

1 pair oxen,	160 00	300 do pork,	40 00
5 cows,	145 00	150 do ham,	20 00
3 two years old steers,	50 00	40 do butter,	8 00
2 calves,	20 00	100 do cheese,	11 00
1 horse,	70 00	1 barrel apples,	2 00
1 colt,	30 00	2 1-2 do cider,	8 00
3 shoats,	20 00	Garden sauce,	50

13 fowls,	8 00	17 dry casks,	2 00
8 tons hay,	120 00	1 churn,	2 50
Corn fodder and straw,	6 00	Spinning wheel and swifts,	1 00
Shingles, in shed, 6 m,	12 00	15 chests and trunks,	10 00
4 ploughs,	15 00	7 meal bags and sacks,	1 50
Grindstone and fixings,	5 00	3 tubs,	2 75
2 harrows,	5 00	3-4 barrel vinegar,	3 00
3 scythes and snaths,	3 00	3 cider casks,	3 00
3 iron bars,	5 00	1 barrel soap and grease,	5 00
2 whiffletrees and chains,	1 50	5 meat barrels,	5 00
4 stake chains,	1 50	1 cheese press,	50
3 hoes,	50	9 beds, bedding, bedsteads,	100 00
3 shovels,	1 00	20 chairs,	3 00
4 manure forks,	2 50	3 lightstanks,	1 00
5 pitchforks,	2 00	6 tables,	5 00
1 sleigh and harness,	15 00	3 stoves and furniture,	22 00
1 wagon,	35 00	Meal chest and meal,	5 00
1 sled,	6 00	6 pails,	75
1 drag,	2 00	1 cheese safe,	2 50
4 rakes,	50	50 lbs. lard,	7 50
Cart and rigging,	20 00	10 earthen pots and pans,	1 50
10 m. shingles,	30 00	5 stone jugs and jars,	2 00
1 wheelbarrow,	3 00	Lot tin ware,	10 00
1 horse rake,	5 00	Wooden ware,	1 25
3 ox yokes, and fixings,	5 00	2 butter firkins,	75
3 ladders,	2 00	30 lbs. candles and tallow,	4 00
4 axes,	3 00	Barrel and flour,	1 00
1 pick,	50	Par. Machine and coffee mill,	1 00
Beetle and 2 wedges,	1 50	2 glass lanterns,	1 25
3 augers,	2 00	1 pair steelyards,	25
2 hand saws,	1 00	4 candlesticks,	50
2 wood saws,	1 50	Crockery ware,	2 00
1 shave,	50	Knives and forks,	2 00
1 stone hammer,	2 00	Stove funnel,	1 00
2 nail hammers,	25	1 clock,	3 00
1 corn cutter and sickle,	50	1 bushel salt,	80
Cart tire,	2 00	2 sad irons,	50
1 trap,	50	2 looking-glasses and lamp,	1 00
200 lbs. old iron,	3 00	1 pair andirons,	50
40 bushels corn,	60 00	Clothes lines basket, &c.,	1 00
100 do potatoes,	50 00	Dry measures,	25
5 1-2 do wheat,	12 00	Cheese fixtures,	1 50
3 1-2 do beans and peas,	8 50	2 brooms,	30
6 do barley,	6 00	8 m. lumber,	60 00
100 pounds dried apple,	7 00		
260 do beef,	20 80	Total,	\$1358 90

RECAPITULATION.

Paid out for Farm,		370 11
Received from avails of the Farm	413 08	
	370 11	
Balance in favor of the Farm.	42 97	
Amount of stock, provision, &c., on the Farm the year ending Feb. 20, 1864,		1358 90
Amount of stock, provision, &c., on Farm the year ending Feb. 22, 1863,		1136 30
Balance in favor of the Farm,	\$222 60	
	42 97	
	265 57	
	234 62	
		30 95
Paid J. Danforth for medical attendance on poor,	7 50	
Services of the overseers of the poor :		
R. B. Cochran,	7 50	
Daniel Campbell,	5 75	
Benjamin Colby,	3 87	
Salary of J. J. Woodbury,	210 00	
Balance in favor of town,		30 95.
Average number of paupers on Farm 8.		

The Farm has been well managed, and Mr. Woodbury and wife have well sustained their former reputation.

ROBERT B. COCHRAN,	}	Overseers of the Poor.
DANIEL CAMPBELL,		
BENJAMIN COLBY,		

SCHOOL REPORT.

As the civil year is drawing to an end, it becomes my duty to report according to my best judgment the condition of our schools. Having taken a deep interest in them, having spent one fourth of my available time in connection with them, I take special satisfaction in saying that they have been unusually prosperous. Still, many of them might have been better. Several school-houses are in a bad condition. Add also, that there has been much irregularity of attendance, and that the text-books in many schools have been neither uniform nor appropriate.

More than all, I think the parents have not felt, or, at least, manifested, sufficient interest. The registers show that they have made fewer visits than last year. This is neither economical nor right. A man hired to drive your team is watched sharply, is assisted daily and paid *freely*.— But the person hired to instruct your children is poorly paid, is seldom properly observed or assisted, and often is not even known. Such neglect is almost criminal. Teachers are encouraged, and scholars are animated by occasional visits of parents. But if parents cannot conveniently *visit* their schools, they *can* do a great amount of good by throwing all their influence on the side of sound discipline and healthy restraint. A teacher should always be sustained while kept, even though to some extent in the wrong. One family may do much injury to a whole district, as well as themselves, by throwing suspicions upon the school, or withdrawing their children from it. In the very few cases of partial failure during the year, parents have, without exception, been at fault. I do not say that teachers have not been at fault also. But if all are not satisfied, it should be remembered, that it is generally far more honorable to submit to an injury than to inflict it upon others.— Besides, it does not follow that an injury has been inflicted upon parents because they are not satisfied. They cater for a false pride who *secede* when their children are punished, or humbled, or displeased, at school. No pupil corrected for bad conduct there, should be approved, or unrebuked at home. The punishment should be repeated, and, if need be, *doubled*, at the fire-side. Good school government and good domestic government are perfectly consistent. A faithful teacher only represents a faithful parent in his absence. Corporal punishment is just as much a school, as a home, necessity. I have little faith in a discipline of force generally; but as a last resort, I would apply the rod remorselessly, and uphold teachers in doing it.

Again, many parents seem to think a teacher must combine all excellencies in himself. He must be “all things to all men.” He must “board round,” and make himself agreeable to every family, however low and sordid, however learned and fashionable. In other words, he must have a miracle wrought on him at every boarding place. He must put himself on a social and moral level with every man, woman and child in the district. He must also know everything and eat everything. But all this is by no means a fit standard. Even a perfect teacher wouldn’t suit all. Some excel as disciplinarians, some as instructors, some are profound scholars, and others, with less knowledge, have obvious tact and force. But no man has a right to cast a sneer at a teacher “who seems to lack something,” unless he is himself perfect and has to spare; and even then he would be wiser to keep still and save his surplus against a time of need. Fault-finding parents have at once, the presumption of experienced educators and reasonable men against them, and their position is at the same time unenviable and unprofitable.

Again, parents should co-operate with committee and teachers in securing uniformity of text books. I think this uniformity of great importance. Hence, during the year I have commenced a change in Arithmetic and Geography—which should be completed in the coming season. In other branches the object might gradually, as the books are needed, be attained without much additional expense. With a committee this is all a thankless task, but nevertheless it should be done. I

have given much attention to the various books, and have full confidence in the utility of those introduced. No text book meets my idea, unless it requires a scholar to think. We should learn by reason—not by rote. Besides, we want something to *use* as well as receive. A little practical, ready knowledge is worth more than any amount of partially-understood and half-remembered questions and answers. Thinking, are less likely to become vicious students, because their heads are not empty, “swept and garnished” for devils to enter.

Again, I think we have too many school hours. Four hours per day of earnest application, is full enough for young classes. We lose by over-working the young mind. I advocate keeping but five days in a week. More is thus accomplished in the long run, with less labor and expense.

Allow me also to say that I think there is too great haste to leave the common school. Many young people think they must get into some bigger institution at the age of fifteen or sixteen. But most of the studies of the academy can be pursued quite as well, and much cheaper, in the common school. The present course makes our schools smaller than they would be, or ought to be, besides carrying into education those fast ideas which are cursing us in everything else. I think it best to get all we can from the *home* schools first, and then there will be full time enough to learn and spend out of town. Without fear or favor I have tried to do justice to all. Have made over eighty visits to the several schools. Cases of imperfect registers will be mentioned in their places. A table of statistics is appended. The largest school wholly in town was in number 16, the smallest in No. 1. Twenty schools had no corporal punishment; most tardiness in No. 7; least in No. 3. Average 3 per scholar. Whole amount appropriated to schools \$1112.88; amount to each scholar \$3.62 1-2. Only one male teacher in town. New Boston has had more teachers teaching than would supply the town. Average length of schools 10½ weeks. I am grateful to many for personal kindness during my visits. Let us now especially consider each school:

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Agent, John M. Barnard; teacher, Miss C. A. Roberts. Your committee met only two scholars in this school, though two others attended part of the time. It is a shameful waste of money to keep such a small school. The money for each scholar is about three times what it is in No. 8. I am told that every family in the district save one, favors a union for school purposes with the adjoining district in Amherst. It should be immediately done. This school was well managed and highly valuable to the few who attended. Only 1 term of 7 1-2 weeks.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Agent, James M. Tuttle; teacher, Summer Term, Miss Julia Neville. A class here commencing Arithmetic for the first time, accomplished much. All attended to reading and spelling, several seemed to improve well in writing. Parents were well represented at the examination; and I think all interested were satisfied with the school. There were pleasing evidences of decorum and good attention. This school is backward; but its progress is none the less commendable.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Asenath P. McQuestion. An excellent work was done in this school. Without corporal punishment, the

discipline was of a high character; and while all learned reasonably well from books; there was also, though not a full, certainly to me a very pleasing, reform in movement and manner. These form no small part of a true education; and I wish that the seeming, as well as the *soul*, of politeness might adorn every school and scholar. There was a large class in history, and all seemed to take interest in reading and spelling.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Agent, W. R. Cochrane; teacher, Miss Lizzie D. Cochrane. The school in this district has been in a private house several years. Only one term of school. Scholars all small and exercises chiefly in reading and spelling. There was very obvious progress made by some. Only three belonged to the district. This would make the amount of school money per scholar, \$13.97.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

SUMMER TERM.—Agent, Abraham Wason; teacher, Miss L. A. Smith. This is one of the richest districts in town, and has one of the smallest schools, there being an average of 8 during the year. I visited this school three times, and though the order was not the best, the school appeared quite well. the method of instruction was good; and some of the classes, though not far advanced, were prompt and thorough—particularly in Geography and Eaton's Common School Arithmetic. Also a good class in History.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Julia Neville. There was evidence of praiseworthy diligence in reading and spelling—to which all attended. All but one made writing a study, and with profit. All the classes in Arithmetic were familiar with it as far as they went. More visitors than scholars at my last visit, though the latter were all there—evincing a parental interest which reflected itself in the school. Class in History continued through this term. Miss Neville kept good order and gave general satisfaction.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Agent, Albert Chamberlin; teacher, Summer Term, Miss A. L. Patch. Classes seemed very well instructed in Arithmetic and Geography. Very few attended to writing. Some smaller classes in reading a great deal. Order better than usual here; and the old house was very clean—which is no little praise. No parents present at examination.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Levina Goodwin. In this school I thought the pupils did well in reading and spelling, throughout. Russell & Tower's old Readers remain in this school. Respectable acquisition in all studies. Only ten of the nineteen scholars present at the examination. There was a plain lack of order, but I do not think the teacher wholly responsible for it. If every boy is so cold he can't help moving, and can't move without shaking a rickety seat, confusion becomes a necessity. And every teacher knows it does not help the matter to send them all to the stove, or keep half going and half returning. For disorders thus arising, I blame the parents, and not the teacher. I saw no parents in either school in the district. Better have a male teacher next winter;

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Agent, Ira Gage; teacher, Summer Term, Miss S. F. Dodge. Both the schools in No. 6 were good this year. There was no corporal punishment in either; yet the discipline, though not rigid, would be generally approved, especially in the Summer term. All then seemed to move quietly and gently, as if each had an interest in good order, as well as the teacher. Obvious progress in reading, to which all attended—the importance of which we cannot over-rate. In this term there was a class in Physiology; in both, in Algebra.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss L. O. Dodge. The general tone of this school was high, worthy and satisfactory. I was much pleased with the improved appearance of the Grammar class. A few older scholars added very much to the dignity of the school. There is hardly a district in town where young lads and lasses who have “retired” from the common school, might not gain very much by attending, and, at the same time, add much by scholarship and example to the value and appearance of each school. It is a shallow pride—a false economy which prevents it,

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Agent, Fred. Dodge; teacher, Miss Carrie L. Patch. Miss Patch kept both terms in this district. Everybody seemed to be pleased, and take an interest in the school. Pupils seemed to be alive and earnest; sang finely. Good improvement in all branches, especially writing and arithmetic. All attended to reading and spelling, and were evidently well taught. These schools command the fullest approval.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Agent, George M. Shedd. Summer Terms, *Lower School*, teacher, Mrs. N. K. Fogg. This was quiet and orderly for a primary school.—Some teachers require perfect silence, and make a great noise in securing it. This was not the case here. Mrs. Fogg set a perfect example of quiet, noiseless perseverance; and to a considerable extent, it was followed by her young pupils. Classes in Geography showed much familiarity with the outline maps. These should be in every school-room.—General satisfaction. Register imperfect.

Upper School.—Teacher, Miss Philantha R. Whipple. In my judgment this was a paying school. No doubt there might have been improvements—I could suggest some; but they would be mostly unimportant. It is easier to see an error than to correct it—to find fault than to be faultless. I agree with the teacher in saying “There was a very marked improvement in the new books introduced.” It would be difficult to find a better class in Geography of a corresponding age. The class in History also, showed generous proficiency. The average attendance in these two schools was only 20 each. Miss Whipple had 40 in one school at the Oil Mill Village last year.

WINTER TERMS.—*Lower School*.—Teacher, Miss Clara E. Fogg. I make several visits to this school, always unexpected, and always found most excellent order. Still there was no corporal punishment. With good order and good attention, scholars cannot help learning. If I am sure of these I feel no alarm for the rest. I think this an eminently useful and acceptable school. Register imperfect.

Upper School.—Teacher, Mr. W. B. Clark. I think the district very

fortunate in its teachers throughout the year. This school, though not large, was divided into a great number of classes; and some of these were happily placed in charge of the largest scholars. There could be no objections to this where so good material was at hand for assistants. There were classes in history, algebra, rhetoric, &c. Every scholar attended to reading and spelling; and most were quite critical and accurate. The appearance of the classes was very gratifying to me. A dozen "graduated" young aspirers in the district ought to have been in them. Some objection was made to certain gymnastic movements; but they were only for fifteen minutes daily, and in connection with articulation, and to this extent only met my approval. Mr. Clark is a teacher of much skill and generous qualifications; and succeeded in developing considerable earnestness and enthusiasm in most of his pupils. Classes were largely instructed by topics and relations, and thereby to think and methodize for themselves. I have little faith in merely printed questions. The register for this school was very imperfect—in fact only one register was properly filled in the district during the year. This is a great annoyance to the committee, and might be avoided by a little care. The law demands it as a condition of payment, and I would advise its rigid enforcement hereafter. In respect to morals and economy, a stricter example on the part of the teacher, would have given better satisfaction.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Agent, T. R. Cochrane; teacher, Miss M. A. Cochrane. This district is the fifth in town in order of wealth, but had only one term of school. I visited it during the second week, and found it orderly, and apparently prosperous, with nine scholars. There were five at the close. I only echo the general voice when I say, and truthfully too, that no school whatever in town has so many dull, thoughtless, bad boys as this, though this is among the smallest. Only four of the nine scholars are children of those who live in the district, and these are not difficult to manage. The others had little interest in learning, and therefore, much in something else. An attempt too long deferred to correct their gradually attained insubordination seems to have touched the honor of these very sensitive fellows, and some of their associates, and they retired from the school. I cannot see sufficient ground of justification on the part of the parents and guardians who suffered them to remain away. It is to be lamented that all of them, as well as part, were not properly punished and daily punished till they would go to school and behave themselves. It is suicidal kindness even to young misses, to spare the rod in such a case. It is said, and I think justly, that the teacher lacked force for this school; but that is the very reason why more force should be applied at home. Miss Cochrane is well qualified in books, and well calculated to instruct; and I found her school more orderly than expected at examination. Some improved very much in writing. There were classes in algebra and history, many classes in all for so small a school. Neither Prudential Committee nor parents visited the school; and this, with the lack of force and sympathy mentioned above, very much lessened its usefulness.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Agent, John Brown; teacher, Miss H. R. Woodbury. Here, also,

there was but one term of school, and that only seven weeks long. Only six names in the register, and part of these from Goffstown. It is strange that a union district is not formed here. This short school was finely improved and all recited promptly. Rather too much whispering, but on the whole, it was a term of fair order and much usefulness. This was Miss Woodbury's first attempt.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

Agent, Ezra Corliss. Summer Term. Teacher, Miss A. M. McIlvin. This teacher had never taught before, but I heard not a whisper of dissatisfaction with her work. I consider it a very praiseworthy effort.— Many parents were present at examination, which passed off finely.— There was also less tardiness and absence than in either term of the previous year.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Carrie Cochrane. I enjoyed much my last brief visit to this school, and only do justice in saying that it seemed to me among our very best. There was fine progress evinced in reading, and the first class especially gave happy evidence of good discipline. Order excellent, diligence obvious. This school is still in session (Feb. 22.) and the figures are given from the Summer register. This district had a good private school in the fall under the charge of Miss Lydia McNeil, the good effects of which were seen through the year.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

SUMMER TERM.—Agent, B. S. Matthews; teacher, Miss Clara A. Sawyer. This is a union district, and there were only five from New Boston during the year. I found a very pleasant school and commendable progress, good order and marked diligence. In this district during the year there were some small, but good, classes in history and algebra.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Mary L. Christy. This was one of the best schools of all I visited during the year, and had some of the best scholars. Everything seemed to move in perfect harmony, and there was an evident thoroughness worthy of much praise. Most of the parents present at examination.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

SUMMER TERM.—Agent, Clifton Starrett; teacher, Miss H. A. Foster. I visited here twice early in the term, and the school appeared well. Owing to a severe storm I did not get there the last day in season. If there was any noticeable lack, it would be in point of order; but no fault was found. The scholars liked their teacher, which is a good omen. Register imperfect.

WINTER TERM.—Agent, James P. Todd; teacher, Mrs. A. J. Bennett. I made four different visits to this school, because under the circumstances, I wished to satisfy myself of its character. In my judgment the instruction was good, the pupils orderly and respectful to their teacher, to me, and to each other, so far as I had opportunity to see; and I do not hesitate to say that those scholars who remained made positive additions to their mental store. Mrs. Bennett is a teacher of much tact and energy; and, though on account of multiplicity of text books, her school was poorly classed and therefore laborious, it was by no means a profitless labor. If the teacher was not qualified in respect to scholarship, it was an error, not of her teaching, but of my judgment. I

am satisfied that she is qualified to teach any scholar in the district; but even if she were not, how much better to remain in school, and add some little knowledge to a good example. Nobody ever gains respect by factious attempts to interrupt a school, or lessen the authority and stain the reputation of a teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 14.

Agent, Nathan F. Langdell. Summer Term; Teacher, Miss A. E. Mansfield. This was Miss Mansfield's first school, and on the whole successful. Good improvement in reading—especially with reference to punctuation. The teacher was very unassuming and quiet; and much of this spirit was manifested by those under her charge. We naturally partake of the habits and feelings of those near us; and the faithful teacher is represented in the modified tastes and movements of the pupil.

WINTER TERM. — Teacher, Miss H. A. Foster. From lack of notice I did not meet those scholars till the third week of the term.

I think this was a still, orderly, scholarly little school. There was thorough and sure, though not rapid, advance in Arithmetic. This teacher is one of good qualifications, and gave satisfaction to me, and doubtless to all.

DISTRICT NO. 15.

Agent, Geo. Hadley; Teacher, Miss M. E. Woodbury. We must judge a school by its progress, not its position. This one is very small and backward, but seems to have done well. Strict rules were not given or needed; but I found good order. The house, though old and plain, was neat, and the scholars demeaned themselves with much respect.—Miss Woodbury had never taught before. She remained through both terms.

DISTRICT NO. 16.

Agent, Stephen F. Burnham. Summer Term; Teacher, Miss Levina Goodwin. This is the second district in wealth in town, and has the largest school. The repeated choice of Miss Goodwin for teacher, shows the confidence of the district in her. She was very industrious and acceptable. There seemed to be a fair advance in all branches, though many circumstances of sickness and home duty unfavorably effected the unity and value of the effort. The teacher did not have full authority over her pupils, and, as a consequence, the order was not the best.

WINTER TERM.—Teacher, Miss Philantha R. Whipple. Here also the order was not the best, or the application the severest. Still I think there was good evidence of improvement. Many attended to writing, and most of the books were very neatly kept. Miss Whipple has a happy aptness to teach and is always employed to good advantage. I would suggest a male teacher next winter.

DISTRICT NO. 17.

Agents, New Boston, Clark Wilson; Weare, Ziba Hoyt. Summer and Winter Terms; Teacher, Miss L. A. Bowers. Of the first I have received no register, and the second has now (Feb. 22d,) several weeks to keep. These terms are from Weare money, and the pupils are chiefly from Weare.

In both schools there was most excellent order, though by some thought

to be too severe for the younger scholars. Some recitations seemed forced and sour, and I thought some went over too much ground. But in the winter term this was all much improved; and I have seldom visited a school which appeared better than this when I saw it last.

FALL TERM.—Teacher, Miss Philantha R. Whipple. This term had only eight weeks, but was very successful. There was some misunderstanding about the teachers at the commencement of the term; but it soon vanished. Pupils, as well as teacher, went to their work with much earnestness, and evident mutual regard. Miss Whipple has taught long and acceptably in this district. The tabular returns are based upon the register of this term, as I have no other.

W. R. COCHRANE, Superintending School Committee.

Districts.			Whole number different scholars during year.			Average attendance during year.			Between 4 and 14 not attending.			Average tardiness per scholar.			Average wages of Teachers.			No. of Weeks Schooling.			School money per District.			School money per Scholar.			Number of Terms.			Number not absent half day.			Cases Corporal punishment.		
1	4	3	0	34	14	00	74	27	74	6	93	1	0	0																					
2	20	16	4	24	16	00	19	55	08	2	75	2	3	0																					
3	5	4	2		14	00	10	41	92	8	38	1	0	20																					
4	13	8	1	53	11	50	19	82	59	6	85	2	2	0																					
5	19	11½	3	24	15	00	20	56	34	2	96	2	4	6																					
6	21	15½	1	71-3	15	50	20	52	91	2	52	2	6	0																					
7	27	18	1	94-9	16	00	22	58	12	2	16	2	7	0																					
8	68	23	9	32-3	19	50	40	271	58	3	99	4	9	4																					
9	10	6½	0	11-0	15	60	12	70	36	7	83	1	0	1																					
10	6	5	0	15-6	11	00	7	28	22	4	70	1	1	0																					
11	25	13½	3	21-2	12	00	23	61	4	2	44	2	2	0																					
12	5	7	0	11-2	12	50	24	31	19	6	23	2	2	0																					
13	22	15	6	7	14	00	24	71	16	3	23	2	3	0																					
14	11	8½	1	11-2	14	00	18	38	47	3	49	2	1	0																					
15	6	4½	0	22-3	16	00	18	46	17	7	69	2	1	0																					
16	35	22	2	11-2	16	75	25	97	77	2	79	2	5	4																					
17	10	28	1	21-3	16	00	32	22	22	2	22	3	0	3																					
307	18		34	3. r	13	85	20	112	88	2	62½	33	46	38																					

REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE TOWN

RELATIVE TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TOWN OF NEW BOSTON

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1880

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